



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/717,555	11/21/2000	Peter W. Austin	COMP:0133/van P00-3172	1699
7590	10/20/2004		EXAMINER	
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ADMINISTRATION LEGAL DEPARTMENT, M/S 35 P.O. BOX 272400 FT. COLLINS, CO 80527-2400				CHANG, YEAN HSI
				ART UNIT 2835 PAPER NUMBER
DATE MAILED: 10/20/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/717,555	AUSTIN ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
Yean-Hsi Chang	2835	P

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 November 2000.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-31 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) Claim(s) 1-31 is/are rejected.
7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 21 November 2000 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date .
4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. .
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the "a hard drive securing mechanism" claimed in claim 1, and "a securing lever mechanism operable to secure a plurality of hard drives to the hard drive carrier" in claim 14 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will

be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

2. The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Correction of the following is required: “a hard drive securing mechanism” claimed in claim 1 is not discussed in the specification.

Claim Objections

3. Claims 3, 5, 7, 8, 12, 14 and 18 are objected to because of the following informalities: “the plurality of protruding members” in claim 3, “the second set of guides” in claim 8, “the second direction” in claim 12, and “the securing lever” in claim 18 lack antecedent bases; “a protruding member” in claim 5 should use article “the” or “said” if the same element stated in claim 3 being referred, otherwise, different name should be given; and “a second set of guide” in claim 7 causes confusion since no first set of guides have been claimed. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-9 and 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cooke et al. (US 5,112,119).

Cooke teaches a computer system comprising: a chassis (20, fig. 2), a processor (inherent element of a computer system), a hard drive securing mechanism (fig. 6), the hard drive securing mechanism being operable to secure a plurality to the chassis (fig. 6) with a rotatable lever (420, fig. 23), and at least one hard drive secured by the hard drive securing mechanism (fig. 9) (claim 1); wherein each hard drive includes a plurality of protruding members (190, fig. 7), further wherein the hard drive securing mechanism is operable to secure the plurality of hard drives by restricting the movement of the plurality of protruding members (see col. 11, lines 14-16) (claim 2); wherein a first hard drive is securable between the lever and a first set of guides (90, fig. 9) (claim 4); the hard drive securing mechanism further comprising: a plurality of guides (90, fig. 9) secured to the chassis restrict the movement protruding members (fig. 9), and a hard drive carrier (200, fig. 8), wherein the rotatable lever includes a plurality tapered guides (540, fig. 19B), each tapered guide being configured receive and secure a protruding member (190A, fig. 15) (claim 3); wherein each tapered guide is configured to receive the protruding member when the rotatable lever is in a first position (fig. 23), further wherein, each tapered guide is configured to prevent movement of a protruding member

when the lever is second position (fig. 25) (claim 5); wherein the rotatable lever includes a protrusion (535, fig. 19B) biased by a flexible member (450, fig. 16), further wherein the protrusion is captured when the securing lever is disposed in the second position fig. 16) (claim 6); wherein a second hard drive (195, fig. 20) securable between the hard drive carrier and a set of guides (90, fig. 8) (claim 7); wherein rotatable lever is operable to drive the carrier towards a set of guides (90, fig. 8) (claim 8); wherein the rotatable lever comprises cam (535, fig. 20) configured for sliding engagement with the carrier (portion 205 of carrier 200, fig. 20) (claim 9); wherein the rotatable lever comprises a tab (portion 685, fig. 25) for operating the rotatable lever (claim 11); wherein the rotatable lever comprises a stop (leading edge of 535, fig. 20) that engages a surface (320A, lower surface of 205, figs. 11 and 20) on the carrier to prevent rotation of the rotatable lever past the first position as the rotatable lever is rotated in a second direction (635, fig. 23) (claim 12); a moveable obstruction (580, fig. 25) disposable over the rotatable lever, wherein when the moveable obstruction is disposed over the rotatable lever, the moveable obstruction prevents the rotatable lever from rotating from the second position to the first position (see fig. 25A), and further wherein, when the rotatable lever is disposed in the first position (fig. 24), the rotatable lever prevents the moveable obstruction from being disposed over the rotatable lever (claim 13).

6. Claims 14-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cooke et al.

Cooke teaches a hard drive securing system (fig. 6) comprising: a plurality of guides (100, fig. 9) secured a chassis (20, fig. 2), a hard drive carrier (200, fig. 8) held by a first plurality of guides (90, fig. 8) and configured to support a computer hard drive (195, fig. 8), and a securing lever mechanism (420+90, fig. 6) operable to secure a plurality of hard drives to hard drive carriers (see fig. 8 and col. 11, lines 14-16) (claim 14); wherein the securing lever mechanism has a guide portion (90, fig. 9) configured to receive a portion of a hard drive (220 of 215, fig. 9) when securing lever mechanism is in a first position (open position, fig. 23) (claim 15); wherein a first hard drive is secured when the securing lever mechanism is rotated to a second position (fig. 25) (claim 16); wherein the securing lever mechanism is operable to rotate from the first position to the second position (shown in figs. 23 and 25) (claim 17); wherein the securing lever mechanism comprises a latch (610, fig. 25A) to secure a securing lever (420, fig. 23) when the securing lever is in the second position (claim 18); and wherein the securing lever is configured with a cam (535, fig. 20) to drive the hard drive carrier as the securing lever mechanism is rotated from the first position to the second position (claim 19).

7. Claims 22-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cooke et al.

Cooke teaches a method of securing a plurality of hard drives to a computer chassis, comprising: disposing a first hard drive (215, fig. 9) between a first restraint (C1, fig. 9) and a securing lever (420, fig. 6), deploying a second hard drive (195, fig. 8)

between a second restraint (C2, fig. 8) and a carrier (200, fig. 8) configured to direct the movement of the second hard drive, and rotating the securing lever to simultaneously secure the first hard drive by the first restraint and the lever, and the second hard drive by the carrier and the second restraint (see fig. 25) (claim 22); providing each hard drive with a plurality of protruding members (220 for 215, fig. 9; and 210 for 195, fig. 8) (claim 23); configuring the securing lever with a tapered guide (540, fig. 19B) to receive a first plurality of protruding members (220) in a first position of the securing lever and to restrict movement of the first plurality of protruding members in a second position of the securing lever (see fig. 25 and col. 11, lines 14-16) (claim 24); and configuring the securing lever with a cam surface (end surface of 535, fig. 20) to drive the carrier in a first direction (upward in fig. 20) as the securing lever is rotated from a first position to a second position (claim 25).

8. Claims 28-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cooke et al.

Cooke teaches a rotatable lever (420, fig. 19B) for securing a hard drive to a chassis, comprising: a plurality of guides (535 and 540, fig. 19B), each guide being configured to receive a protruding member when the securing lever is in a first position (fig. 23) and to restrict the protruding member when the securing lever is in a second position (fig. 25) (claim 28); a first portion (lower portion in fig. 19B) including at least one of the plurality of guides, a second portion (upper portion in fig. 19B) including at least a second of the plurality of guides and an operator (at 685, fig. 19B), and a

connector (515, fig. 19B), connecting the first and second portions (claim 29); wherein the first portion and the second portion include a cam surface (end surface of 535 and 540, fig. 19B) (claim 30); and wherein each guide is tapered (better shown in fig. 23) (claim 31).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. Claims 10, 20-21 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cooke et al. in view of Kikinis (US 5,539,616).

Cooke discloses the claimed invention except a spring being compressed as the rotatable lever is rotated in a first direction, and biasing the carrier towards the rotatable lever when the rotatable lever is rotated in a second direction.

Kikinis teaches a spring mechanism (75, fig. 2) at the inner end of a module bay (19, fig. 2) being compressed when a module is pushed in the bay and biasing the module toward the outward direction.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the hard drive bay with the spring mechanism taught by Kikinis such that the hard drive may be easily retracted.

11. Claim 27 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cooke et al. in view of Bologna et al. (US 6,442,021 B1).

Cooke discloses the claimed invention except indicating the restraints being formed by cutting and bending a portion of the chassis form a plurality tabs configured to restrict the hard drives.

Bologna teaches a computer chassis (24, figs. 1-3) comprising restraints (62, figs. 2-3) formed by cutting and bending a portion of the chassis (better shown in fig. 3) for restricting hard drives.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device of Cooke with the chassis taught by Bologna for increasing the stiffness of the chassis and reducing rotational vibrations.

Correspondence

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yean-Hsi Chang whose telephone number is (571) 272-2038. The examiner can normally be reached on 07:30-16:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Art Unit phone number is (571) 272-2800, ext. 35. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 305-3431 for regular communications and for After Final communications. There are RightFax numbers and

provide the fax sender with an auto-reply fax verifying receipt by the USPTO: Before-Final (703-872-9318) and After-Final (703-872-9319).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-8558.

Yean-Hsi Chang
Patent Examiner
Art Unit: 2835
October 16, 2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Yean-Hsi Chang".